



# ALI "QUOTES"

Volume 13, Issue 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRINCETON ACS

May/June 2003

## Chairman's Corner

### Fiona Case

Colgate-Palmolive

Welcome to the May/June edition of AliQuotes! If you received this via email please note that you will not be receiving a paper copy. We have been piloting email delivery over the last couple of months, and it seems to work very well. If you would prefer a paper copy, let us know. If you regularly use email and you received a paper copy this time, please consider joining our emailing list (contact Lynne Greenblatt - [GREENBL1@wyeth.com](mailto:GREENBL1@wyeth.com)). We will not give your address to anyone else.

The last two months were very enjoyable. In March we toured the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory and were fascinated by fusion (see the pictures later in this edition). In April we heard an excellent presentation on chemistry in women's health, the story of selective estrogen inhibitors and hormone replacement therapy from Chris Miller (Wyeth Research). The next two months look equally good. On May 15<sup>th</sup> we will continue our "Local Chemistry" theme with a presentation from Gail Eaton, TRI Princeton on "A History of Research, A Lifetime of Solutions: A Review of TRI's Work in Textiles, Fibers, Cosmetic Chemistry, and Nanotechnology". Also in May, the Alyea Memorial Demonstration Lecture – for the young and young at heart. The demonstration will take place on Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup> beginning at 11AM in the Kresge Auditorium, Room 120 Frick Laboratory. The event will include presentation of ACS Princeton Local Section awards to local high school students. On June 12<sup>th</sup> we have our Summer Celebration with talks on "Chemistry in the Garden" followed by "Dinner in the Garden", the first of our summer barbecues (we will also barbecue in July).

In June Princeton University is hosting the ACS Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM). It looks like it is going to be very successful; submissions to present papers and posters have already passed all previous records. The Princeton Local Section is co-sponsoring three important MARM events. On Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> we are holding a careers event at the Frist Campus Center. This is free to all ACS members (registration required at the MARM website by June 4<sup>th</sup>).

See you all at our meetings! Fiona

## May Meeting

**Speaker:** Gail Eaton  
TRI  
Princeton, NJ  
<http://www.triprinceton.org>

**Topic:** "A History of Research, A Lifetime of Solutions: A Review of TRI's Work in Textiles, Fibers, Cosmetic Chemistry, and Nanotechnology"

**Date:** Thursday, May 15, 2003  
Lecture at 6 PM  
Room 324, Frick Laboratory  
Princeton University

Dinner immediately after meeting  
Prospect House  
Princeton University

TRI/Princeton has been providing clients in industry, government, and academia, both domestically and abroad, with the scientific expertise and research necessary to create and enhance the efficacy, performance, and appeal of their products. At its inception in 1930, TRI's aim was to help the United States textile industry in staying competitive; however, over the years, its area of focus have grown, and continue to expand, in response to the ever-changing needs of its clients and the world.

While TRI has been successful in a broad cross-section of industries, the unifying goal behind all of their main focus, TRI's work in everything from paper towels to blue jeans to carpets to shampoo to military apparel has helped to change the everyday lives of millions of people. The need for important scientific research continues to exist, despite difficult socioeconomic times. For decades, TRI/Princeton has proven that first-rate education, research, and quality are mandatory aspects to modern living. ■

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.princeton.edu/~pacs>

## June Meeting

**Speakers:** Joseph Heckmann  
Dept. Plant Biology & Pathology  
Rutgers University  
"Chemistry in the Garden"  
<http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/garden/>

Satish Myneni  
Dept, Geosciences  
Princeton University

**Date:** Thursday, June 19, 2003  
Lecture at 5:30 PM  
Room 324, Frick Laboratory  
Princeton University

Barbecue immediately after meeting  
Prospect House Garden  
Princeton University

### PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER STARTING TIME FOR THIS MEETING

As of the deadline of this publication we did not have abstracts for the talks. ☐

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### ***Would you consider joining the ACS Princeton Local Section outreach program?***

Through the education website of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection we offer demonstrations and hands-on activities based on environmental themes. Central Jersey schools and community groups can request our services for science lessons and special events. The theme for our first offering is "water quality", to coordinate with the theme for Earth Day 2003. We will provide training (one 2-3 hour evening or weekend session) and then place you on our volunteer list. When we receive a request we contact the list and make up a team of an appropriate size. You may participate as often, or as rarely, as suits your schedule.

According to the education coordinator at NJDEP, most requests will be for weekday lessons and events at elementary or middle schools. Some schools also have science fairs and other special events on weekends or in the evening. You may choose the age level(s) and type(s) of events with which you are most comfortable. It is lots of fun, and the children are always very appreciative.

If you are interested in participating in this activity please contact Dr. Kathryn Wagner, [kmwagner@princeton.edu](mailto:kmwagner@princeton.edu), phone: 609 258-2937 ☐



*Tour of Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, March 13<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks to Patti Weiser for organizing the event, Laura Blasucci for arranging the excellent dinner, and to our knowledgeable tour guides Jon Menard and Stewart Zweben.*

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## Two members of Congress Win Science Awards

Reps. Rush Holt (D-N.J.) and Judy Biggert (R-Ill.) have won the ACS Award for Public Service. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the development of public policy that benefits the chemical sciences. Rep. Holt, a physicist who has formed a particularly close relationship with the science and engineering community, is a strong advocate for improving math and science education and increasing federal funding for research and development. Rep. Biggert has distinguished herself as a firm supporter of scientific innovation and expanding the participation of women and minorities in science.

## Founding Document at Home

In order to mark our 75th Anniversary, the Princeton ACS Local Section will dedicate a display cabinet in the Princeton University Chemistry Department. The display will become the permanent home for our founding document, and a source of information about our meetings and activities for the staff and students at Princeton.

The dedication ceremony will take place at 1:45 PM on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. All Princeton ACS members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The brief ceremony will be followed by a symposium entitled "***Global Warming and the Hydrogen Economy***" organized as part of the Chemistry Department Reunions celebrations.

Additional information is available at:  
<http://www.princeton.edu/~chemdept/reunions/>

# Remembering our History

We are celebrating the end of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year by initiating what we hope will become a regular feature in *Ali"Quotes"* – Princeton Local Section members contributing fragments of our chemistry history. We happily share in reminiscing about people, places and events which have marked the evolution of chemistry in the local section and in the area. Thank you to all those who have already sent in short pieces for this section. Please keep them coming, we will try to include one or two each month.

## **American Can Company in Princeton**

John A. Church

In 1964, American Can Company established a corporate research & development laboratory on North Harrison Street in Princeton. The mission of this laboratory was to carry out fundamental and long-range work in areas of interest to the company that could not easily be done at the divisional laboratories in Wisconsin, Illinois, and other locations that specialized more in short-range applied development work.

American Can at that time was a diversified company that produced not only metal cans but also a variety of paper and plastic goods for both commercial and direct consumer use. Hence the laboratory was staffed with scientists and engineers representing a wide variety of disciplines to address the tasks at hand. Employment reached a maximum of about 80 at one point in the late 1970's, but had gradually declined to about 45 by the time the facility was closed in 1983. Closure was due to a decision by management to divest out of manufacturing operations and become heavily involved with financial services. Many of the staff were successful in finding appropriate positions in the local area. ■

## **My Favorite Professor**

By Dr. Charles N. Muldrow, a 50-year member of the ACS

In 1957 I was accepted for doctoral programs in chemistry at Princeton University and at the University of Virginia. To investigate the latter school, I went to Charlottesville, Virginia. There a friend from undergraduate days at the College of Charleston enthusiastically recommended his research supervisor, a young Assistant Professor, Dr. Loren Hepler, and introduced me to him. Loren was from Kansas and had obtained his Ph.D. in physical chemistry under Nobel laureates at the University of California at Berkeley. He offered research in solution calorimetry of inorganic compounds of chromium and molybdenum.

I decided to attend the University of Virginia, which offered small classes and individual attention. My doctoral dissertation was under Dr. Hepler. He was a wonderful teacher and dear friend. He made his courses in inorganic and physical chemistry interesting and clear, but challenging. He required excellence in our laboratory work and in writing papers for the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* and the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*.

He and his wife Olivia often invited his graduate students over to their home for dinner and bridge. Another graduate student was working slowly despite being married and a father. I heard Loren counsel the student in a kind but firm way. The professor got the student working hard and finishing up his research.

While studying at the University of Virginia, I met and courted Miss Nancy Fugelso, who was attending Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Dr. Hepler wanted to meet my fiancée and invited us to dinner. I remember his coming to the car one rainy evening with an umbrella to greet us. I believe that he wanted to be sure that I was marrying the right young lady.

I received my Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, and Nancy is now my beloved wife of almost 45 years. Professor Hepler went on to become a full professor at the University of Calgary in Canada. We kept up over the years, and he helped me with appropriate references. I have many admiring memories of the late Professor Hepler, who encouraged his students to improve in many ways. I regard him as an ideal Professor of Chemistry. ■

**DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES  
FOR PUBLICATION IN ALI"QUOTES" FOR THE  
REMAINDER OF 2003:**

**ISSUE**

July/ August 2003  
September/October 2003  
November/December 2003

**DEADLINE**

June 20, 2003  
August 15, 2003  
October 15, 2003

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## Upcoming MARM Events

In June Princeton University is co-hosting the ACS Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM). Our Local Section is sponsoring some important MARM events.

On Monday June 9th we are holding a careers event at the Frist Campus Center. This is free to all ACS members (registration required at the MARM website by June 4th).

Afternoon workshops are aimed at those starting their chemistry careers, evening workshops are focused for chemistry professionals who want, or need, to change careers. We will also be giving resume reviews, and running discussion panels on "second careers in academia or education", and "local resources for job seekers" (job clubs, recruiters, etc.).

ACS careers staff will be running a Regional Employment Clearing House, and there will also be a more informal "Job Fair and Local Industry Showcase" on Monday evening featuring chemistry related companies from throughout central New Jersey. If you are unemployed, please attend. If you are not, please help!

We need chemistry professionals with some recruiting experience to provide resume reviews. We also need you to contact your human resources departments and encourage them to participate in the "Job Fair and Local Industry Showcase". More information please contact **Fiona Case** email: fhcase@hotmail.com or **Donna Bassolino-Klimas** - email: dbk5@lycos.com.

Also at MARM (on Tuesday) we are sponsoring (and organizing) the finals of the regional Chemagination contest for high school kids and a K-8 Teacher Training event.

Special thanks to **Wyeth Research**, **Firmenich**, **FMC**, the **Merck Research Institute** and the **BMS Foundation** for their financial support of these outreach activities.

## CHEMAGINATION CONTEST

Chemagination is a science essay and poster contest for 9 – 12 grade chemistry students. Students address the question, "What breakthrough or innovation in the field of chemistry will be important in the lives of teenagers 25 years from now? Students write an article in the style of ChemMatters magazine in one of four categories: Biotechnology, Medicine/Healthcare, New Materials or Transportation/Environment. Learn more about the contest by visiting [chemistry.org/oca](http://chemistry.org/oca) and stop by to see the student entries and ask them questions about their ideas. The contest will be held June 10 at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) 2003. For more information visit

<http://chemistry.org/oca>

or contact:

Sharon Sibilia by email at [sibilia@erols.com](mailto:sibilia@erols.com).



## The 2003 US National Chemistry Olympiad:

The finalists from the 2003 US National Chemistry Olympiad will be recognized at the ACS Trenton Section Awards Banquet to be held on May 13, 2003 at the Olive Garden Restaurant in Lawrenceville. The following high schools and teachers participated in the Olympiad this year: **Mary Calvert** of The Lawrenceville School, **Beth Volpe** of Lawrence Township High School, **Carol Peabody** of Delaware Valley High School, **Lillian Rankel** of Hopewell Valley Central High School, **Tom Horsley** of The Pennington School, **Lois Omland** of Notre Dame High School, **Kimberly Chamberlain** of West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North, **Patrick Gibbons** of North Hunterdon High School, **Matt Treichel** of The Hun School of Princeton, **Karen Galley** of West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, and **Linda Kruegel** of Princeton High School.